SOL RABKIN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
75 HENRY STREET
BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11201

522-7466

April 9, 1973

Dear Harold & Lil,

Your letter came as a surprise since it was so long since we've been in touch. Before commenting on its contents let me say that I'm responding not with a loan such as you request but a gift which I hope will at least tide you and let you make visits and trips (how many I can't say) you have to make to push ahead with your various litigations and publications. I'm enclosing a check for $200 for that purpose.

But I am not in the money-lending business, even ~~bad~~ bad money-lending business. And I certainly don't want to add to your load of debt. So instead I make a small gift to help you over the most immediate crisis.

The rest of your tale of woe – and it is a story of awe-inspiring dilemmas and shocking sloppiness by those you relied on – horrifies me. I do hope things pick up for you and you begin soon to collect some of the debts owed you. And I hope the farm is bought at its true value so you get off the rough spot quickly and have a cushion of reserve you can live on and plan future books.

Incidentally, I notice that the farm which you are trying to sell and which a real estate agent has valued at over 125,000 (R. E. agents values are always inflated) is unencumbered. Why not try to borrow a mortgage on that for the maximum you can get on it. That would be an easy way to get money for your present crunch. If you can get a $75,000 mortgage you could let it go to foreclosure and at least have the $75,000 if you can't sell it ultimately for more.

On the matter of being cheated on royalties, that's par for the course unless you have an ironclad contract allowing inspection of the books and you have the money to sue for a court directed accounting if that becomes necessary.

On the matter of the effect of tweaking the lion's tail and the expected repercussions, it doesn't surprise me. But that, too, is par for the course but the one mitigating factor is that those trying to stymie you are generally too busy with other things to be at most only casually effective against you.

In my new job, I don't have occasion to travel other than vacations and so I rarely get to Washington. For the last two years and a little more I've been law secretary to a Supreme Court (N.Y.) ~~J~~ Judge and so I have no occasion to travel even on such trips as to Washington. And I can get away for vacations only at the end of December for two weeks and in the summer. So Lord knows when I can avail myself of your kind invitation to a visit. Please let me know what goes on + about any further crises.

Warmest personal regards

Sol + Freda